

**IN THE SPECIFICATION:**

*On page 1, please insert before the first paragraph the following new paragraph:*

**CROSS REFERENCE TO EARLIER APPLICATION**

**[0001]** This application claims the benefit of prior-filed U.S. Provisional Patent Applications Serial No. 60/457,222 filed March 25, 2003, entitled "Protective Reversible Hand Guard " and Serial No. 60/484,964 filed July 3, 2003, entitled "Protective Hand Guard for Pugilistic Sports Competition".